

PUBLIC LAW 93-555
93RD CONGRESS, H.R. 7077
DECEMBER 27, 1974

An Act

To provide for the establishment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Cuyahoga Val-
ley National
Recreation
Area.
Establishment.
16 USC 460ff.

PURPOSE

SECTION 1. For the purpose of preserving and protecting for public use and enjoyment, the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River and the adjacent lands of the Cuyahoga Valley and for the purpose of providing for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to the urban environment, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, hereafter referred to as the “recreation area”, shall be established within six months after the date of enactment of this Act. In the management of the recreation area, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall utilize the recreation area resources in a manner which will preserve its scenic, natural, and historic setting while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public.

LAND ACQUISITION

16 USC 460ff-1

SEC. 2. (a) The recreational area shall comprise the lands and waters generally depicted on the map entitled “Boundary Map, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio”, numbered NRA-CUYA-20,000-A, and dated December 1974, which shall be on file and available for inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia, and in the main public library of Akron, Ohio and Cleveland, Ohio. After advising the Committees in Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress, in writing, the Secretary may make minor revisions of the boundaries of the recreation area when necessary by publication of a revised drawing or other boundary description in the Federal Register.

88 STAT. 1784
88 STAT. 1785

Publication in
Federal
Register

(b) Within the boundaries of the recreation area the Secretary, after consultation with the Governor of the State of Ohio and the Advisory Commission established in section 5 of this Act, may acquire lands, improvements, waters, or interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer. Any lands or interests owned therein, as well as any lands hereafter acquired, by the State of Ohio or any political subdivision thereof (including any park district or other public entity) may be acquired only by donation. The Secretary shall not acquire privately owned lands which are held and used for public recreation uses unless he determines that such lands are essential to carry out the purposes of this Act. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, any Federal property located within the boundaries of the recreation area may, with the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, be transferred without transfer of funds to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of the recreation area.

(c) With respect to improved properties, as defined in the Act, the Secretary may acquire scenic easements or such other interests as, in his judgment, are necessary for the purposes of the recreation area. Fee title to such improved properties shall not be acquired unless the Secretary finds that such lands are being used, or are threatened with uses which are detrimental to the purposes of the recreation area, or unless such acquisition is necessary to fulfill the purposes of this Act.

Scenic
easements

Fee title

(d) When any tract of land is only partly within the boundaries of the recreation area, the Secretary may acquire all or any portion of the land outside of such boundaries in order to minimize the payment of severance costs. Land so acquired outside of the boundaries may be exchanged by the Secretary for non-Federal lands within the boundaries. Any portion of the land acquired outside the boundaries and not utilized for exchange shall be reported to the General Services Administration for disposal under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended: *Provided*, That no disposal shall be for less than the fair market value of the lands involved.

40 USC 471
note.
"Improved
property."

(e) For the purposes of this Act, the term "improved property" means: (i) a detached single family dwelling, the construction of which was begun before January 1, 1975 (hereafter referred to as "dwelling"), together with so much of the land on which the dwelling as is situated, the said land being in the same ownership as the dwelling, as the Secretary shall designate to be reasonably necessary for the enjoyment of the dwelling for the sole purpose of noncommercial residential use, together with any structures necessary to the dwelling which are situated on the land so designated, or (ii) property developed for agricultural uses, together with any structures accessory thereto which were so used on or before January 1, 1975. In determining when and to what extent a property is to be considered an "improved property", the Secretary shall take into consideration the manner of use of such buildings and lands prior to January 1, 1975, and shall designate such lands as are reasonably necessary for the continued enjoyment of the property in the same manner and to the same extent as existed prior to such date.

88 STAT. 1785
88 STAT. 1766

(f) The owner of an improved property, as defined in this Act, on the date of its acquisition, as a condition of such acquisition, may retain for himself, his heirs and assigns, a right of use an occupancy of the improved property for noncommercial residential or agricultural purposes, as the case may be, for a definite term of not more than twenty-five years, or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner or the death of his spouse, whichever is later. The owner shall elect the term to be reserved. Unless the property is wholly or partially donated, the Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of the acquisition, less the fair market value on that date of the right retained by the owner. A right retained by the owner pursuant to this section shall be subject to termination by the Secretary upon his determination that it is being exercised a manner inconsistent with the purposes of this Act, and it shall terminate by operation of law upon notification by the Secretary to the holder of the right of such determination and tendering to him the amount equal to the fair market value of that portion which remains unexpired.

Retention
rights.

(g) In exercising his authority to acquire property under this Act, the Secretary shall give prompt and careful consideration to any offer made by an individual owning property within the recreation area to sell such property, if such individual notifies the Secretary that the continued ownership of such property is causing, or would result in, undue hardship.

SEC. 3. (a) Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit, in writing, to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and to the Committees on Appropriations of the United States Congress a detailed plan which shall indicate:

Plan,
submittal to
congressional
committee.
16 USC 460ff-

- (i) the lands and areas which he deems essential to the protection and public enjoyment of this recreation area,
- (ii) the lands which he has previously acquired by purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer for the purpose of this recreation area, and
- (iii) the annual acquisition program (including the level of funding) which he recommends for the ensuing five fiscal years.

(b) It is the express intent of the Congress that the Secretary should substantially complete the land acquisition program contemplated by this Act within six years after the date of its enactment.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535) as amended and supplemented (16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4). In the administration of the recreation area, the Secretary may utilize such statutory authority available to him for the conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

88 STAT. 1786
88 STAT. 1787

16 USC 460ff-3.

(b) The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Ohio, or any political subdivision thereof, for the rendering, on a reimbursable basis, of rescue, firefighting, and law enforcement services and cooperative assistance by nearby law enforcement and fire preventive agencies.

Cooperative
Agreements.

(c) The authority of the Secretary of the Army to undertake or contribute to water resource development, including erosion control and flood control, on land or waters within the recreation area shall be exercised in accordance with plans which are mutually acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army and which are consistent with both the purposes of this Act and the purposes of existing statutes dealing with water and related land resource development.

Water resource
development.

(d) The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of the State of Ohio, shall inventory and evaluate all sites and structures within the recreation area having present and potential historical, cultural, or architectural significance and shall provide for appropriate programs for the preservation, restoration, interpretation, and utilization of them.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to accept donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purpose of providing services and facilities which he deems consistent with the purpose of this Act.

(f) The Secretary may, on his own initiative, or at the request of any local government having jurisdiction over land located within or adjacent to the recreation area, assist and consult with the appropriate officers and employees of such local government in establishing zoning laws or ordinances which will assist in achieving the purposes of this Act. In providing assistance pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall endeavor to obtain provisions in such zoning laws or ordinances which-

Zoning Laws or
ordinances.

(1) have the effect of prohibiting the commercial and industrial use (other than a use for commercial farms and orchards) of all real property adjacent to the recreation area;

(2) aid in preserving the character of the recreation area by appropriate restrictions on the use of real property in the vicinity including, but not limited to, restrictions upon: building and construction of all types; signs and billboards; the burning of cover; cutting of timber (except tracts managed for sustained yield); removal of topsoil, sand, or gravel; dumping, storage, or piling of refuse; or any other use which would detract from the aesthetic character of the recreation area; and

(3) have the effect of providing that the Secretary shall receive notice of any hearing for the purpose of granting a variance and any variance granted under, and of any exception made to, the application of such law or ordinance.

Notice,
hearing.

ADVISORY COMMISSION

SEC. 5. (a) There is hereby established the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Advisory Commission (hereafter referred to as the "Commission") which shall be composed of thirteen members to be appointed by the Secretary for terms of five years as follows:

Establishment.
16 USC 460ff-4.

(1) two members to be appointed from recommendations submitted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Akron Metropolitan Park District;

- (2) two members to be appointed from recommendations submitted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District;
- (3) two members to be appointed from recommendations submitted by the Governor of the State;
- (4) one from the membership of an Ohio conservation organization;
- (5) one from the membership of an Ohio historical society; and
- (6) five members representing the general public, of which no fewer than three shall be from among the permanent residents and electors of Summit and Cuyahoga Counties.

The Secretary shall designate one member of the Commission as Chairman and any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay expenses reasonably incurred by the Commission and reimburse members for reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act on vouchers signed by the Chairman.

(c) The Secretary, or his designee, shall from time to time but at least semiannually, meet and consult with the Advisory Commission on matters relating to the development of the recreation area and with respect to carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(d) Unless extended by the Congress, the Commission shall terminate ten years after the date of the establishment of the recreation area.

Termination date.

SEC. 6. (a) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, but not more than \$34,500,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands.

Appropriation. 16 USC 460ff-5.

(b) For the development of essential public facilities there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$500,000. Within one year from the date of establishment of the recreation area pursuant to this Act, the Secretary shall, after consulting with the Governor of the State of Ohio, develop and transmit to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress a final master plan for the development of the recreation area consistent with the objectives of this Act, indicating:

Master plan, submittal to congressional committees.

(1) the facilities needed to accommodate the health, safety, and recreation needs of the visiting public;

(2) the location and estimated cost of all facilities; and

(3) the projected need for any additional facilities within the area.

Approved December 27, 1974

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

HOUSE REPORT No. 93-1511 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 93-1328 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 120 (1974):

Dec. 9, considered and passed House.

Dec. 12, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 11, No. 1:

Dec. 28, Presidential statement.